

Transition Songs

Original songs and resources created by Welsh National Opera

Early Years Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1

WNO workshop leaders Emily Rooke and Dalma Sinka have created six brand new transition songs for you to use as part of your school routines from the summer term onwards! Each song has a bespoke backing track and video you can use in the classroom as a teaching video to learn the melody and the Makaton signs that go with it. We hope that you can make use of these to help ease transitions during the school day and embed them into your day to day activities throughout the school year.

We have included some suggestions for how you might like to make use of these songs throughout your normal daily routine with your class but this is not an exhaustive list! There are lots of ways to incorporate song and singing in your day and please feel free to adapt the lyrics of these songs to suit your classroom and activities specifically. We have included a small amount of Makaton signs in the learning videos but we would not expect pupils to be using them while washing their hands or tidying up for example so feel free to use or not use them as appropriate.

Getting in a Circle

Getting in a circle for circle time or similar can be tricky for little ones! Why not try asking everyone to hold hands while they are getting into a circle. This will help make the shape of the circle and ensure the spaces between all the children are big enough before they sit down. Keep singing along until you are all in position then sit down together. Why not sing it one more time once you are sat down and include the Makaton signs?

Tune 'Ring a Ring o'Roses'

Getting in a circle, getting a circle,

Attention, attention, are we all here? (If not, sing again)

Getting in a circle, getting a circle,

Attention, attention, are we all here? (If not sing again etc.)

Getting in a circle, getting a circle,

Attention, attention, (final time, when teacher and students are ready), we all sit down.

Washing Hands

Hand washing will continue to be important all throughout the school day. You can ask children to use the length of this song as a good amount of time to wash your hands so they don't take too little time or take too long. For those children who are waiting to wash their hands they can sing along and do the Makaton signs to keep them occupied while they wait. The lyrics will also help to reinforce the sequence of events; water, soap, rinse and dry!



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Tune 'Knees up Mother Brown'

Let's go and wash our hands, let's go and wash our hands,

Turn the tap on, here we go, ee - I - ee - I - ee - I - oh

Now let's get the soap and rub it on our hands,

soapy, soapy, nice and foamy, make a slurpy/squelchy sound *slurpy sound*!

Leeeeeet's rinse that soap right off, rinse that soap right off,

turn the tap off, here we go, ee - I - ee - I - ee - I - oh.

Now dry them with a towel, dry them with a towel,

easy, breezy, nice and clean-y, now we've washed our hands!

Line Up

This song can be used for lining up in any situation throughout the school day e.g. coming in from playtime, going to lunch, hometime. You can of course replace the word 'door' with whatever you need children to line up by. Encourage those who are already lined up or waiting to be called to join with the Makaton signs while they are waiting to give them something to focus on if they can. Or start the music and see if they get the hint!

Tune 'The Farmer in the Den'

Line up by the door, line up by the door

Lining up in one straight line, line up by the door!

Tidy Up Song

It goes without saying some pupils need some extra encouragement when it comes to tidy up time so use this song to help ease the transition between activities and make the task seem like it's taking less time. Once you all know the song well you can be singing this in the classroom while tidying up acapella. I wouldn't recommend doing this with the video as that will distract from the main task too much but this one is best used acapella (without accompaniment) and often to help embed this in your activities. Repeat as many times as you need to. Again Makaton signs will not be useful while you are tidying(!) so leave them out or to stick to using them at the end if children would like to.

Tune 'My Bonnie Lies Over the Ocean'

It's time to clean up in our classroom.

It's time to clean up with our friends.

It's time to clean up in our classroom.

So, pick up your books and your pens!

Clean up, clean up, and tidy those things right away, away!



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Clean up, clean up, and tidy those things right away!

Quiet Time

This song is intended to be used as a moment of calm in the classroom, a moment of mindfulness to stop everything and clear everyone's heads and regain focus for learning. You may want to use this at regular intervals throughout the day or nominate a specific 'quiet time' in your daily routine perhaps around pinch points during the day that are harder to manage. This song also reinforces number learning from 1 - 10. You may want to use this as something for the children to listen to rather than singing along. Feel free to change the word 'morning' to whatever time of day makes the most sense.

Tune 'Sleeping Bunnies'

We had a busy morning

Let's all have a rest

After all the learning, playing with our friends

Now close your eyes and gently relax your tired head

Let us all be still, and count to ten.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 (silently count and sign along)

Pack Your Bags

This is a nice way to finish off your day and get everyone moving and ready to leave the classroom. This song is best when used regularly as part of your daily routine. If your pupils do not have bags change you can change any of the lyrics to reflect this for example use 'pick up your lunch box' or 'collect your water bottle' instead. Repeat this as many times as you need to and follow up with the lining up song perhaps!

Tune 'Frères Jacques'

Pack your bags, pack your bags,

Ready, steady, go! Ready, steady, go!

See you all tomorrow, see you all tomorrow,

It's time to go, let's go home!



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